

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

ATTACHMENT APPARATUS FOR DISC PROTECTIVE SHEET AND ATTACHMENT METHOD THEREFOR

Case No. P00,0979, the specification of which

(check one) X is attached hereto.
was filed on September 21, 1999 (International Filing Date), as
International Application No. PCT/JP99/05165
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent Office all information which is known to me to be material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56.¹

I do not know and do not believe this invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and I believe that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application, and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns, except as identified below:

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Number	Country	Date
P10-266983	Japan	September 21, 1998

and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the above listed application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Number	Country	Date
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¹ (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

(1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a *prima facie* case of unpatentability of a claim; or

(2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:

(i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or

(ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A *prima facie* case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

Date _____

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Hill & Simpson
A Professional Corporation
85th Floor Sears Tower, Chicago, Illinois 60606

Full name of sole or first inventor Kenichi KANO

Inventor's signature Kenichi Kano Date April 17, 2000
Residence Miyagi, Japan
Citizenship Japan
Post Office Address c/o Sony Corporation, 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome, Shinagawa-ku,
Tokyo 141-0001 Japan

Full name of second joint inventor,

(if any) Takahiko FUKUSHIMA

Inventor's signature Takahiko Fukushima Date April 17, 2000
Residence Miyagi, Japan
Citizenship Japan
Post Office Address c/o Sony Corporation, 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome, Shinagawa-ku,
Tokyo 141-0001 Japan

[illegible]

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, I, as a below named inventor, residing at the address stated next to my name, am a sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of certain new and useful improvements in ATTACHMENT APPARATUS FOR DISC PROTECTIVE SHEET AND ATTACHMENT METHOD THEREFOR for which application for Letters Patent of the United States of America was executed by me on the date indicated next to my name and address;

AND WHEREAS, Sony Corporation, a Japanese corporation with offices at 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0001 Japan (hereinafter referenced as ASSIGNEE) is desirous of acquiring all interest in, to and under said invention, said application disclosing the invention and in, to and under any Letters Patent or similar legal protection which may be granted therefor in the United States and in any and all foreign countries;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00), and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, I, as a sole or joint inventor as indicated below, by these presents do hereby assign, sell and transfer unto the said ASSIGNEE, its successors, assigns, and legal representatives, the entire right, title and interest in the said invention, said application, including any divisions and continuations thereof, and in and to any and all Letters Patent of the United States, and countries foreign thereto, which may be granted for said invention, and in and to any and all priority rights and/or convention rights under the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, Inter-American Convention Relating to Patents, Designs and Industrial Models, and any other international agreements to which the United States of America adheres, and to any other benefits accruing or to accrue to me with respect to the filing of applications for patents or securing of patents in the United States and countries foreign thereto, and I hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents to issue the said United States Letters Patent to said ASSIGNEE, as the assignee of the whole right, title and interest thereto;

And I further agree to execute all necessary or desirable and lawful future documents, including assignments in favor of ASSIGNEE or its design, as ASSIGNEE or its successors, assigns and legal representatives may from time-to-time present to me and without further remuneration, in order to perfect title in said invention, modifications, and improvements in said invention, applications and Letters Patent of the United States and countries foreign thereto;

And I further agree to properly execute and deliver and without further remuneration, such necessary or desirable and lawful papers for application for foreign patents, for filing subdivisions of said application for patent, and or, for obtaining any reissue or reissues of any Letters Patent which may be granted for my aforesaid invention, as the ASSIGNEE thereof shall hereafter require and prepare at its own expense;

And I further agree that ASSIGNEE will, upon its request, be provided promptly with all pertinent facts and documents relating to said application, said invention and said Letters Patent and legal equivalents in foreign countries as may be known and accessible to me and will testify as to the same in any interference or litigation related thereto;

And I hereby covenant that no assignment, sale, agreement or encumbrance has been or will be made or entered into which would conflict with this assignment and sale.

And I hereby authorize and request my attorney(s) of record in this application to insert the serial number and filing date of this application in the spaces that follow: International Serial Number: PCT/JP99/05165, International Filing Date: September 21, 1999.

This assignment executed on the dates indicated below.

Kenichi KANO
Name of first or sole inventor

Execution date of U.S. Patent Application

Miyagi, Japan
Residence of first or sole inventor

Kenichi Kano
Signature of first or sole inventor

April 17, 2000
Date of this assignment

Takahiko FUKUSHIMA

Name of second inventor

Execution date of U.S. Patent Application

Miyagi, Japan

Residence of second inventor

Takahiko Fukushima

Signature of second inventor

April 17, 2000

Date of this assignment

10092855-030702